

**U.S. District Court  
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)  
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:18-cv-01800-APM**

CAUSE OF ACTION INSTITUTE v. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Assigned to: Judge Amit P. Mehta

Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 08/01/2018

Jury Demand: None

Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of Information Act

Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

**Plaintiff**

**CAUSE OF ACTION INSTITUTE**

represented by **Lee A. Steven**  
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V.

**Defendant**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

represented by **Christopher Charles Hair**  
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**TERMINATED: 02/15/2019**  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
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08/01/2018	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ( Filing fee \$ 400 receipt number 0090-5613837) filed by CAUSE OF ACTION INSTITUTE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit 1, # <u>2</u> Exhibit 2, # <u>3</u> Exhibit 3, # <u>4</u> Exhibit 4, # <u>5</u> Exhibit 5, # <u>6</u> Exhibit 6, # <u>7</u> Exhibit 7, # <u>8</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>9</u> Summons DOJ, # <u>10</u> Summons U.S. Att'y Gen., # <u>11</u> Summons Civil Process Clerk)(Mulvey, Ryan) (Entered: 08/01/2018)
08/01/2018	<u>2</u>	Corporate Disclosure Statement by CAUSE OF ACTION INSTITUTE. (Mulvey, Ryan) (Entered: 08/01/2018)
08/01/2018	<u>3</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Lee A. Steven on behalf of CAUSE OF ACTION INSTITUTE (Steven, Lee) (Entered: 08/01/2018)
08/02/2018		Case Assigned to Judge Amit P. Mehta. (zsb) (Entered: 08/02/2018)
08/02/2018	<u>4</u>	SUMMONS (3) Issued Electronically as to U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (Attachment: # <u>1</u> Notice and Consent)(zsb) (Entered: 08/02/2018)
08/07/2018	<u>5</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed as to the United States Attorney. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney on 8/6/2018. Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 9/5/2018. (Mulvey, Ryan) (Entered: 08/07/2018)
08/07/2018	<u>6</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 08/06/2018. (Mulvey, Ryan) (Entered: 08/07/2018)
08/07/2018	<u>7</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE served on 8/6/2018 (Mulvey, Ryan) (Entered: 08/07/2018)
08/15/2018	<u>8</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Damon William Taaffe on behalf of U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (Taaffe, Damon) (Entered: 08/15/2018)
09/05/2018	<u>9</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.(Taaffe, Damon) (Entered: 09/05/2018)
09/06/2018	<u>10</u>	ORDER. Both a Complaint and an Answer are now before the court in this FOIA case. It is hereby ordered that the parties shall meet and confer and file a Joint Status Report on or before September 20, 2018. The Joint Status Report shall include (1) the status of Plaintiff's FOIA requests; (2) the anticipated number of documents responsive to Plaintiff's FOIA requests; (3) the anticipated date(s) for release of the documents requested by Plaintiff; (4) whether a motion for stay is likely under Open America v. Watergate Special Prosecution Force, 547 F.2d 605 (D.C. Cir. 1976); and (5) whether the parties anticipate summary judgment briefing and, if so, a proposed briefing schedule. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 09/06/2018. (lcapm1) (Entered: 09/06/2018)
09/06/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 9/20/2018. (zjd) (Entered: 09/07/2018)
09/20/2018	<u>11</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Taaffe, Damon) (Entered: 09/20/2018)
09/20/2018		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>11</u> Joint Status Report, the parties shall file a Joint Status Report on or before October 22, 2018, and every 30 days thereafter until the completion of production. The status report filed after the completion of production shall advise the court whether the parties intend to litigate this matter further and, if so, propose a briefing schedule for summary judgment. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 09/20/2018. (lcapm1) (Entered: 09/20/2018)
09/20/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 10/22/2018. (zjd) (Entered: 09/21/2018)
10/22/2018	<u>12</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Taaffe, Damon) (Entered: 10/22/2018)
11/21/2018	<u>13</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Taaffe, Damon) (Entered: 11/21/2018)

11/21/2018		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>13</u> November 21, 2018, Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another Joint Status Report, on or before December 21, 2018, that updates the court on their progress. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 11/21/2018. (lcapm1) (Entered: 11/21/2018)
11/21/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 12/21/2018. (zjd) (Entered: 11/26/2018)
12/20/2018	<u>14</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by CAUSE OF ACTION INSTITUTE. (Mulvey, Ryan) (Entered: 12/20/2018)
12/20/2018		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report no later than February 8, 2019, advising the court whether the production of responsive information is complete and whether summary judgment briefing will be required and, if so, proposing a briefing schedule. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 12/20/2018. (lcapm1) (Entered: 12/20/2018)
12/20/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 2/8/2019. (zjd) (Entered: 12/21/2018)
02/08/2019	<u>15</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by CAUSE OF ACTION INSTITUTE. (Mulvey, Ryan) (Entered: 02/08/2019)
02/08/2019		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report no later than March 8, 2019, advising the court whether the production of responsive information is complete and whether summary judgment briefing will be required and, if so, proposing a briefing schedule. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 02/08/2019. (lcapm1) (Entered: 02/08/2019)
02/08/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 3/8/2019. (zjd) (Entered: 02/08/2019)
02/15/2019	<u>16</u>	NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTION OF COUNSEL by Christopher Charles Hair on behalf of All Defendants (Hair, Christopher) (Entered: 02/15/2019)
02/27/2019	<u>17</u>	MOTION to Compel <i>Preservation and</i> MOTION to Expedite Consideration by CAUSE OF ACTION INSTITUTE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration Ryan P. Mulvey, # <u>2</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Mulvey, Ryan). Added MOTION to Expedite on 2/27/2019 (jf). (Entered: 02/27/2019)
03/08/2019	<u>18</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Hair, Christopher) (Entered: 03/08/2019)
03/12/2019		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report by April 10, 2019, which updates the court on Defendants' response to Plaintiff's FOIA requests. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 03/12/2019. (lcapm1) (Entered: 03/12/2019)
03/12/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 4/10/2019. (zjd) (Entered: 03/21/2019)
03/13/2019	<u>19</u>	Memorandum in opposition to re <u>17</u> MOTION to Compel <i>Preservation and Request for Expedited Consideration</i> MOTION to Expedite filed by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration of Vanessa R. Brinkmann)(Hair, Christopher) (Entered: 03/13/2019)
03/20/2019	<u>20</u>	REPLY to opposition to motion re <u>17</u> MOTION to Compel <i>Preservation and Request for Expedited Consideration</i> MOTION to Expedite filed by CAUSE OF ACTION INSTITUTE. (Mulvey, Ryan) (Entered: 03/20/2019)
04/10/2019	<u>21</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Hair, Christopher) (Entered: 04/10/2019)
04/16/2019		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report by May 10, 2019, which updates the court on the FBI's production efforts and estimates a date of completion. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 04/16/2019. (lcapm1) (Entered: 04/16/2019)
04/16/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 5/10/2019. (tb) (Entered: 04/16/2019)
04/25/2019	<u>22</u>	ORDER granting <u>17</u> Plaintiff's Motion for Preservation Order. See attached Order for additional details. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 04/25/2019. (lcapm1) (Entered: 04/25/2019)

04/25/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Defendant's Status Report due by 5/2/2019. (zjd) (Entered: 04/25/2019)
05/02/2019	<u>23</u>	NOTICE of Compliance with Court Order (Interim) by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE re <u>22</u> Order on Motion to Compel, Order on Motion to Expedite (Hair, Christopher) (Entered: 05/02/2019)
05/09/2019	<u>24</u>	NOTICE of Compliance With Court Order by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE re <u>22</u> Order on Motion to Compel, Order on Motion to Expedite (Hair, Christopher) (Entered: 05/09/2019)
05/10/2019	<u>25</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Hair, Christopher) (Entered: 05/10/2019)